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|-------------------|--------|
| Water             | 5-20%  |
| Salt (NaCl)       | 1-5%   |
| Active Ingredient | 0.1-5% |

Generally speaking, the starch component of the matrix comprises 10 to 50 percent by weight of the matrix. More particularly, the starch component of the matrix comprises 15 to 40 percent by weight of the matrix.

While starch for use in the matrix can be of any suitable type, it is most preferred that at least part of the starch in the matrix be a highly derivatized or pregelatinized starch. If a highly derivatized starch is present in the matrix, it should be present in an amount of about 1/2 percent by weight of the total starch and the balance of the starch being non-derivatized. More preferably, about 20-40 percent by weight of the total matrix and about 45% of the total starch should be the derivatized starch. An example of a preferred pregelatinized starch is A.E. Staley's NU-COL 4227 or SOFT-SET.

Other amylaceous ingredients may be used in combination with the derivatized starch or alone, provided the starch limits are not exceeded. The amylaceous ingredients can be gelatinized or cooked before or during the forming step to achieve the desired matrix characteristics. If gelatinized starch is used, it may be possible to prepare the product of the subject invention or perform the method of the subject invention without heating or cooking of any sort. However, if ungelatinized (ungelled) or uncooked starch is used, the matrix must be cooked sufficiently to gel or cook the starch to reach the desired content.

Starches that can serve as a base starch for derivatization include regular corn, waxy corn, potato, tapioca, rice, etc. Such types of derivatizing agents for the starch include